

FIRE CAUSED DEATH

LI HUNG CHANG HAD A VIOLENT DIS-
PUTE WITH M. LESSAR.

A horizontal line with arrows at both ends. A solid black dot is placed at the center of the line, and the letter 'a' is written directly below it.

LI'S DEATH A BLOW TO RUSSIA

MANCHURIAN CONVENTION PROBABLY WILL NEVER BE SIGNED.

**Japan Protested, but M. Lessar Vainly
Tried to Have Li's Seal Attached
While He Was Dying.**

TWO COURT EDICTS ISSUED

**POSTHUMOUS HONORS FOR THE LATE
CHINESE STATESMAN.**

Yuan Shi Kai Made Governor of Chi
Li, and Wang Wen Shao to
Succeed Earl Li.

PEKING, Nov. 8.—A violent dispute with M. Paul Lessar, Russian minister to China over the Manchurian treaty, appears to have been the immediate cause of the death of Li Hung Chang.

The diplomatic events preceding this tragic climax have enabled Japan for a moment to frustrate the designs of Russia. A fortnight ago the Japanese legation secured a reliable outline of the terms of the treaty, and thereupon demanded the

the Chinese plenipotentiaries officially lay before them the text, basing this demand on the allegation that Japanese interest

were involved in any change of the status of Manchuria. The Chinese plenipotentiaries refused to comply with the demand. Thereupon the Japanese government, from Tokio, communicated with the southern

the treaty. In the meantime the Empress dowager instructed Li Hung Chang to communicate the treaty, after certain modifications, to the ministers of the powers and, if they did not object, to sign the same. Li Hung Chang, however, M. Lessar explained to him the instructions. The Russian minister strongly objected to revealing the text of the treaty to the ministers of the other powers, and a stormy interview followed. Li Hung Chang went home in a violent passion and had a quarrel with his wife. The result was the overextension of a weakened system.

While these things were happening in Peking the southern viceroys sent to the Empress dowager a memorial against the treaty. On receiving it she telegraphed to Li Hung Chang, countermanding the order to sign the treaty. At the same time Li Hung Chang had become unconscious. When M. Lessar endeavored to have the

Hung Chang's seal affixed to the treaty between China and Japan was signed by Chou Fu, provincial treasurer, had arrived from Pao-Ting-Fu and had taken charge of the seals as temporary successor of Earl Li.

The flag of the United States legislature was the only one half-masted in Peking today. The mourners and the family of Li Hung Chang will burn paper offerings tomorrow, in accordance with custom, for the use of his spirit in the other world. The street is hung with mourning emblems. All the attendants at the yamen are dressed in black. The musicians have usually dressed To-day musicians bear the usual dress of the house. Li Hung Chang's estate will remain intact for the use of his eldest son, who will provide for other members

bers of the family.

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TWO APPOINTMENTS.

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Yuan Shi Kai and Wang Wen Shao
Honored by the Court.

PEKING, Nov. 8.—A special edict has arrived here appointing Yuan Shi Kai, Governor of Shan-Tung province, to be Governor of the province of Chi-Li and appointing Wang Wen Shao, who is vice-president of the Foreign Office and a member of the Cabinet, to succeed Li Hung Chang as plenipotentiary. They are both ordered to come to Peking forthwith. An other edict creates Li Hung Chang a mar-

Yuan Shi Kai's successor in the governorship of the province of San-Tung is Chiao Yen Chun, who has been holding an unimportant, though lucrative, position as grain commissioner at Tsai-Kaung-Fu, an inland town. He will be watched with the deepest solicitude, as the peace of China will largely depend upon his course. He is now about 40 years of age and deaf, was never rated as a statesman or a diplomatist. His appointment was a surprise.

Telegraphic communication with Prince Ching was obtained to-day. He is hastening to Peking, and it is probable that he will return with Wang Wen Shai, who is accompanying the court, which is now at Tientsin.

Emperor Kwang Su, report says, is asserting himself and leading the imperial army against the rebels. He has recently declared that he proposes to inaugurate a revival of the military spirit, assuming the

and wearing a uniform. They also asserted that he will compel the nobles to follow his example in adopting military positions and to study military science.

A private letter from a European now in Tsing-tung, to the effect that the officers, accompanying a party of Indian soldiers, encountered the imperial procession, were suspected of unfriendly motives and were detained for a few days. Apparently this was an exploration of the Emperor's bodyguard for a few days. Apparently this was an exploration of the Emperor's bodyguard for a few days.

Captain Hunter, which has been operating in that region for some time.

MR. ROCKHILL'S VIEWS.

He Thinks Both Appointments the Best That Could Be Made.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3.—Minister Conger has informed the State Department that Yuan Shi Kai has been appointed to succeed Li Hung Chang as viceroy of Chi-li and that Wang Wen Shao has been appointed deputy viceroy of the same province. Yuan is the present viceroy of Szechuen province. The appointment of the best that could have been made in all China according to Mr. Rockhill, the special commissioner of the United States

Peking. Yuan is about forty-five years of age and came originally from the province of Hu-Nan, where he began his public career as a military officer. He was made minister to Korea and for many years ab-